



Drug Fridge - Temperature Checking Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-PN-0062

Version Nos:
6

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of ensuring that drugs are kept at the correct temperature.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all nursing staff throughout the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB).

3. Definitions

There are no definitions associated with this Procedure.

4. Staff Authorised To Perform Procedure

This Procedure shall be performed by a:

- i) Registered nurse (RN); or
- ii) Enrolled nurse / nurse assistant; or
- iii) Student nurse (under RN direction) or
- iv) Pharmacy staff

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Maximum/minimum thermometer

6. Process

- 1.00 Temperature of all drugs fridges must be checked on a weekly basis.
- 1.01 The maximum/minimum thermometer should be kept upright in the main body of the fridge and not in the door.
- 1.02 Temperature readings are to be taken from the lower end of the blue line.
- 1.03 The temperature range should be between 2 and 8°C.
- 1.04 After reading, the thermometer must be reset by depressing the red button and holding it down until the blue line reaches the mercury. Place the thermometer back into the fridge in an upright position.
- 1.05 The temperature should be documented along with the date, time and initials and signature of the staff member taking the reading.
- 1.06 If the temperature is below 2°C or above 10°C a list of the drugs currently in the fridge should be made and sent to the Pharmacy. The electrician should also be contacted.



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- 1.07 The fridge should be checked by the electrician and monitored daily until readings are consistent.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- All drug fridges must be checked on a weekly basis
- No food or drink to be stored in a Drug Fridge
- Ensure thermometer is placed into the body of the fridge in an upright position.

8. References

Health South Canterbury Professional Nursing and Midwifery Manual

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Occupational Safety and Health Manual.

Revision History	Version:	6
	Developed By:	Quality Improvement Co-Ordinator
	Authorised By:	Director of Nursing & Midwifery
	Date Authorised:	January 1996
	Date Last Reviewed:	May 2011
	Date Of Next Review:	May 2013